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LETTER DATED 16 JULY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

With respect to the presidential statement of 15 July 1993 (S/26084), acting upon the instructions of my Government, I would like to draw the attention of the members of the Security Council to the position of Croatia.

It is the firm belief of my Government that the actions aimed at the reopening of the Maslenica bridge and the Zemunik airport for civilian traffic are the legitimate right of Croatia and in the spirit of the Vance plan and the relevant Security Council resolutions. We consider those actions to be a necessary measure owing to the lack of efficiency of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in fulfilling its mandate and in normalizing the living conditions of all the citizens and refugees on the territory of Croatia. In this regard, it must stressed that, in spite of the last series of interim prolongations of its mandate, UNPROFOR has not accomplished the major goals inscribed in the relevant Security Council resolutions, owing to the obstruction by the Serbian side. I have to remind you that the shelling of the Croatian cities was intensive even before the Croatian Government decided to open the bridge.

My Government reiterates its readiness to implement fully all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including resolution 802 (1993), and to promote confidence-building measures, and cooperate in their fulfilment. We would have appreciated the recalling by the Security Council in document S/26084 of the demands stated in the aforesaid resolution in their entirety (e.g. paras. 1, 3 and 4 of resolution 802 (1993)). The Croatian Government believes that full implementation of the resolution is the only way to bring about the rapid conclusion of the agreement on confidence-building measures as called for in Security Council resolution 847 (1993). With this in mind, the armed forces of Croatia will withdraw from the area specified by resolution 802 (1993) at the same time as the Serbian insurgents in the United Nations protected areas and the "pink zones" fulfil their obligations contained in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the same resolution.

We believe that "the return of the heavy weapons seized from the UNPROFOR-controlled storage areas" and "disbanding and demobilization of Serb Territorial Defence units or other units of similar functions" is equally as important as

the withdrawal of the Croatian Army. Therefore, the complete demilitarization of the United Nations protected areas must be considered as the most essential step towards stabilizing the region. It is the intention of the Croatian Government to continue in good faith with the negotiations on confidence-building measures and the normalization of the living conditions in the region.

My Government is committed to assuring UNPROFOR forces freedom of access to the area surrounding the Maslenica Straits and entrusting UNPROFOR - if it is capable - with the security of the civilian traffic over the bridge.

We regret the reference made to the "authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" in the letter sent to you by the Secretary-General (S/26082), which was the foundation for the presidential statement, thus legitimizing the authorities in Belgrade as an active participant in this matter. We consider the reopening of the Maslenica bridge and the Zemunik airport an entirely internal matter of Croatia.

I would ask for your kind assistance in having this letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Permanent Representative